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CROSS REGALIA
GUARDA DA PRINCESA VAMPIRA
クロスレガリア
吸血姫の護りかた

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Cross x Regalia - Volume 01 Chapter 00-01 (Incomplete)

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Novel Illustrations

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Prologue

Prologue[edit]

--- I could see the stars.

I couldn't see anything but the stars.

The night sky, cut off by the shape of the back alley, was thin and stifling.

However, lying down, the only thing I could do was look at the night sky. As if my body had been impaled by lead, I found it troublesome to even blink, let alone move a single finger. There was not a single wound on my skin, and it was probably not my body that had received the fatal wound, but my spirit instead.

The night wind in April was cold.

I felt really tired.

"--- you can't stop."

Someone spoke in my head.

I knew that it was my own voice. Even though I knew that, I could no longer move. I shouldn't have a single bit of energy left in me to move.

And yet,

"..... hehh."

I thought I heard a voice.

"Eh?"

That shouldn't be possible.

The ones who were searching for me should have been left far behind. Even my own kind should not be able to feel my presence either.

"..... hehh. ..... is there really someone here, < Caean >."

The voice seemed to be talking to someone.

But, there was only a single figure. And he didn't seem to be talking to a cellphone. Even though Caean was a strange name, as if acting on suggestion, the figure walked straight towards here.

(--- huh?)

"Woah, it's right here."

Just a meter away, the figure stopped in surprise.

And I could finally see his face.

He was about sixteen, or seventeen. He had a mischievous look on his face, the face of a young man.

Clad over his standard size uniform, was a sports jacket. Despite having a single burn-like streak on the side of his cheek, I could catch a glimpse of that inborn, mischievous sort of boyish winsomeness from his pitch-black eyes.

Scratching his head, the young man said.

"What's wrong with today? People are lying on the ground one after another."

"..... you can leave me alone."

On hearing my reply, the young man trembled in a terribly exaggerated manner.

"You are awake?"

"It doesn't matter."

I sighed.

"Anyway, please leave me alone. You wouldn't like to get hurt because you carelessly got involved with a stranger right?"

"..... is someone after you?"

He finally realized it, I thought.

As you can see, I'm a troublesome fella. You should just leave me and get out of here. If you start to act just a little more kindly to the effect of even bringing in the police, then no matter how reckless it is, I'll have a good reason to move.

Regardless of whichever side gets taken down, I have nothing to lose.

That's right.

It's the usual thing.

I was just resting for a while. After that, I would just go back to the usual state. That determination resided in me for those few seconds.

But,

"In that case: Well met."

The young man just said something outrageous.

"..... well met?"

"I'm a bodyguard. Probably cheaper than anyone else you can find."

He continued spouting nonsense.

"Bodyguard? You are just a high school student right?"

"Can't a high school student to be a bodyguard? Incidentally, it's just a thousand yen for handling one round of trouble, and you can rest easy from after school until late night."

It sounded really stupid.

It might not be my place for me to say this, but even if this were the most extreme distasteful caricature, I felt that it was a little too much to take in. Just a little while ago, I was just alongside the extraordinary, and yet, all of a sudden, reality and fiction seemed to have swapped places.

"..... bodyguard?"

I murmured again,

"Yup."

"Eh?"

The next moment, I found your outstretched hand.

"Give me your hand. And what's your name?"

"....."

I kept silent.

I was bewildered. I was hesitant. I was at a loss.

Helplessly, unbecoming of myself, I was confused.

More importantly, I was bewildered at my own self.

Why did I..... respond to you?

Why, when I found it supposedly troublesome to lift even a finger, did I grasp your warm hand, and told you my name?

"..... Nata."

"Nata huh. What a girlish, cute, lovely name. --- I'm Haserou. Inumi Haserou. Nice to meet you."

There and then, you smiled for the first time.

Your grin blended gently into the night, with your smiling face like the bright moon.

..... aah.

Frankly speaking.

I would probably never be able to say this to your face, so at the very least, let this heart of mine confess honestly.

I was enthralled.

All my life up till now, your smiling face --- the smiling face of Inumi Haserou was the most precious thing to me.

Chapter 1

Status: Incomplete

Cutting through the sakura's petal, bright and clear sunlight trickled down.

Light pink fragments calmly and lightly rustling about descending down.

Spring, a period where the path would normally be covered in light pink fragments, compared to the sakura blossom's beauty, the pedestrian were respiring in awe of its imposing figure instead.

However.

This place could be counted as an exception.

Because on this bustling street, two types of aposematic; red and yellow in color, were fluttering everywhere.

This combination of color was obviously different from Japan's color, though resplendent it caused people to have an inconceivable sense of feeling and that of a profound culture.

Erected everywhere were billboards with writings on them, the characters were also different from japanese; chinese language.

China Town.

This one of the foreign towns that were distributed throughout the whole Japan.

The lines of sakura trees along the road extended all over to the eastern side of China Town, vendor stalls with delicious looking foods were also in the nearby vicinity. Displayed on the vender stalls in China Town were meat buns and almond junket; together with the falling down sakura petals, they mixed in to form an indescribable atmosphere that can neither be found in Japan nor China.

Amidst this scenery, a boy was running.

"Sorry! Sorry! Make way please!"

Brushing aside the crowd, the boy——was running as if his life depends on it.

Meanwhile, an unusual expression was displayed on his face.

"——Ah, what a pain in the arse!"

This kind of hopeless intonation, it was impermissible in the first place.

Although his appearance wasn't incorrect, but his body gave off a subtle poor and pedantic vibe instead; a totally different kind of feeling.

Sweat poured down soaking his entire sport jacket, this kind of situation was also intolerable. But he paid no heed to it, panting while running was also unacceptable.

Forget about it, he couldn't even make out which place is which.

His whole body was covered in tatter.

Not caring to covered his unsightly appearance in the least, the boy ran with all his might.

"Damn! Damn! Shit! Shit! I wanna cry! It's rare to have sales after two weeks!"

It is exactly as previously stated.

In both of the boy's hands were numerous plastic bags.

No, rather than both hands, correctly stating it would be the majority was at his index fingers. Between the bags; onions, carrots, and radishes were peeking out. At the bottom onions and cabbages could be seen. Inside the distorted plastic bags contained pork and milk. These plastic bags were arranged together, resembling that of soldiers preparing for an assault.

——It shouldn't be like this originally.

As to why it had come to this.

It is because at first he thought of buying triple the amount. What's more, inside the boy's mind, he was calculating out the loss and gain continually. This month food expense had already taken up 2340 yen, in addition this dinner cost also cost the same amount. Calculating this out there was no way to stop it now.

He had already obtained the mentality of an impoverished person.

Actually, it is better to describe to being more close to that of a group of housewives, afterwards it could be considered lucky that he got the front line of

the queue. Having bought the low price spring onions, fresh rounded carrot, pork and milk, up until now it had occurred as planned.

At the moment, if he had not seen [that thing] walking leisurely passing him at the supermarket.

"Damn!!!"

Using the sleeves to wipe out his tears.

Holding on numerous plastic bags, nimbly avoiding collision with passerby, the boy was running on the periphery of China Town with great speed.

Afterwards, halting at the fork road.

There he was besides a community multi-storied building construction site.

As he was taking a glance around,

"——Shirou, over here!"

The boy was called out by this serene voice.

On the second floor of the construction site nearby. Huffing as he lifted his head to look above, on the top of the grotesque looking dull red reinforcing bar suddenly appeared a girl sitting atop of it.

"Natalie!"

"Just a moment ago, I also saw [that thing] therefore I want to take a quick glance at it. [That thing] has already concealed itself in this small alley."

There was a girl wearing a white hat reflected in the sunlight and an even more pure white dress.

Long black hair tied up on both sides of the head, two scarlet hairbands swaying about near the cheeks. A fine slender figure like that of a human, however giving air of gentle and refined atmosphere. This kind of disequilibrium is really conspicuous.

The age.....was not quite clear.

Sometimes it felt like compared to Shirou's age it is ten years younger, sometimes it felt like it around his age.

However, the figure lightly took off the white hat, facing with the back against the sun the figure smiled innocently, a perfect match with her appearance.

Finally, the girl pointed her hand out.

"That alley, there's trace of an identical scent left. It seems that it is trying its utmost to conceal its whereabouts, madly crossing the fence. At present there are three alleys in front. Look, it’s around that corner.”

While speaking in a strange tone of voice, the girl rapidly started to transform on the reinforced bar.

(.....Ah!)

The boy, let out a breath.

Because the girl isn’t being cautious of this action, therefore it seems that it is possible to see through the dress.

Shirou hurriedly shifted his sight away, Nata not understanding this action, cocked her head.

“Um, what’s up? You seems hot, is the rising in yang energy in spring the cause?”

“N, no, nothing!”

The boy incessantly shook his head, trying to shift to the former topic.

“Say, saying the word [energy] and so on, it is like you know what its appearance looks like.”

“I am immortal after all.”

“Yes yes. You can even eat mist. Moreover, take these things too.”

The girl handily caught the plastic bags that were being thrown one by one . Needless to say that it is impossible to catch all of these with just two hands, from the fourth one onwards it had been piling up forming a pyramidal shape.

Like the skill of an acrobat, the girl’s white hat began to shake uncontrollably.

“Wow, you who is stingy to the core of all people, buy this much, there goes the hard-earned savings.”

“You are annoying! I actually want to buy more! It’s not easy to chance upon a low price product!”

“What. You plan to disregard [that thing], isn’t it better to fight till the end. In any case I have already entrusted my money to you. It is the best option out there for people planning to save their money.”

“Entrusting is entrusting! But not because of that you planned on ignoring [that thing].”

Finished speaking, Shirou went off running.